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Allegiances

FallenClan

Leaders//

Duskstar//pale brown tom with long legs and amber eyes

Olivestar//dark brown she-cat with black stripes; hazel eyes *{apprentice: Hazelpaw}*

Deputies//

Pineflight//white tom with flecks of brown on his back and paws; brown eyes

Yewsong//gray she-cat with gray eyes; white muzzle

Medicine Cats//

Cedarshine//brown tom with green eyes

Tallwatcher//black she-cat with long legs; blue eyes *{apprentice: Willowpaw}*

Guardians//

Crowleap//black tom with gray eyes

Sparkfire//pale brown she-cat with bright green eyes

Badgerfrost//black tom with white legs and tail; light blue eyes

Flamemask//russet she-cat with hazel eyes

Poppywind//brown tom with brown eyes; white chest

Milkfeather//long-furred brown she-cat with a white underbelly and amber eyes

Applemask//russet tom with dull green eyes

Berryflight//gray she-cat with long legs; brown eyes

Warriors//

Falconfire//brown tom with light blue eyes

Ebonylight//black she-cat with gray eyes

Gingerbee//pale brown she-cat with dark brown stripes *{apprentice: Mallowpaw}*

Tansypool//gray tom with brown eyes and black paws

Sableleap//black she-cat with gray eyes

Hailmask//blue tom with white-rimmed amber eyes *{apprentice: Cinderpaw}*

Ivyfrost//gray she-cat with yellow eyes; black and white spots

Fogheart//dark gray tom with yellow eyes

Sunwhisker//light brown she-cat with amber eyes and white stripes *{apprentice: Ashenpaw}*

Batwatcher//solid black tom with striking hazel eyes

Cherrybriar//ginger she-cat with white paws and ears; gray eyes *{apprentice: Almondpaw}*

Emberwillow//tortoiseshell she-cat with bright amber eyes

Leopardstorm//brown tom with cream spots on his back; hazel eyes

Sootstream//dark gray tom with brown eyes

Robinmask//ginger she-cat with brown eyes *{apprentice: Webpaw}*

Elmthroat//dark brown tom with yellow eyes and white flecks on his back and legs

Marshrunner//tortoiseshell she-cat with wide brown eyes

Jaywind//light gray tom with blue eyes *{apprentice: Sparrowpaw}*

Mottledsong//mottled brown she-cat with pale gray eyes

Apprentices//

Hazelpaw//tortoiseshell she-cat with amber eyes

Willowpaw//light gray she-cat with blue eyes

Mallowpaw//brown tabby she-cat with white paws and yellow eyes

Cinderpaw//dark gray tom with bright blue eyes

Ashenpaw//light gray she-cat with white flecks on her back and paws; amber eyes

Almondpaw//dark brown she-cat with white-rimmed brown eyes

Webpaw//blue she-cat with white paws and white-rimmed gray eyes

Sparrowpaw//light brown tabby tom with yellow eyes

Caretakers//

Rowanfur//dark ginger tom with dull brown eyes

Mothwhisker//pale gray she-cat with blue eyes

Mousestep//small brown tom with gray eyes and white paws

Kits//

Wrenkit//brown tabby tom with green eyes

Mossykit//mottled brown she-kit with white-rimmed yellow eyes

Bearkit//large brown tom with big paws and gray eyes

Turtlekit//tortoiseshell she-kit with brown eyes

Owlkit//gray tom with black-rimmed yellow eyes and black tail

Sorrelkit//small tortoiseshell she-kit with green eyes

Dappledkit//tortoiseshell tom with green eyes

Swiftkit//light brown tom with white flecks on his back; blue eyes

Starlingkit//white she-kit with brown flecks on her paws and back; amber eyes

Outsiders//

Opal//white she-cat with green eyes; kittypet

Applesauce//golden tabby tom with amber eyes; kittypet

Hare//cream tom with hazel eyes; loner

Peppermint//white and russet she-cat with green eyes; kittypet

Walker//tall brown tom with brown eyes; loner

Nut//pale brown she-cat with hazel eyes; loner

Blossomstripe//calico tom with brown eyes; rogue

Claw//black tabby tom with gray eyes; rogue

A/N||
Hey, Lovelies! This is a new book; duh. (the cover is temporary) I just wanted to thank all of you for being so supportive of Lost, and I have a feeling that you're gonna love this book, too! Thank you to Sparrowheart838 for giving me the idea of having Caretakers instead of Queens! I don't want to hold you up, so as always, thank you for reading, voting, commenting, and sharing, and I hope you enjoy!
~Briar

Prologue

The nights that hold the most stars are always the special ones.

The white silhouette of the tom was seen easily against the dark blue sky. The only light shining down was the light of the stars above. Looking up, the cat saw the small sparkles above him twinkle and shimmer, but there was one that caught his eye.

The star seemed as if it were dancing, dancing in front of the other stars that were the audience.

"You have a very vivid imagination." A voice from behind him spoke, causing him to whip around.

"Please, don't scare me like that again! You know I don't like surprises." he growled playfully.

"No promises. I just like to see that nothing has changed with you." He smiled and ran up in front of his littermate.

The tom laughed and waved his tail. "What about you? You rarely come and visit me anymore. Something has got to be up." The tom immediately saw his littermate's face turn from happiness to despair.

"Well, yes. StarClan is doing well, but we fear you and your Clan are in danger." The tom gave his littermate a puzzled look, but he brushed it off and continued. "The Dark Forest has decided to come against us and try to win over your Clan. They have enlisted help. Cats in your Clan are working from the inside." The tom laughed, clearly thinking it was a joke, but when his brother did not laugh along with him, he knew that the truth was being told.

"My Clan? Who would dare do such a thing? We have had a powerful connection to StarClan for so long! Why would that be broken?" His brother shook his head.

"No cat knows. We are hoping that you have the power to stop it, but we fear that we may be too late." He looked up at his littermate and was about to cut in when he cut him off. "No. Don't. If we are too late, there is no use in trying to fix things. Destiny is what it is, and there is no changing that. You are here to meet with Petalwind, but instead, you have come here to meet your death. I

will see you in StarClan, my dear brother."

The tom gaped. "What do you mean? I'm not going to die!" The tom was met with a nod as his brother disappeared into the night. "Brambleleap! Come back!"

"I'm afraid that won't be required," A voice from behind him spoke once more. He jumped, practically scared to his death. "You'll be seeing him shortly." The she-cat's voice bit into him like a snake biting its prey. They stung. And killed.

"Petalwind. I was hoping you would come. And I see you brought friends as well." He smirked as she laughed sweetly.

"Oh, these guys? They aren't my friends. Just my allies. I'm sure you would have gotten along very well with them, but I don't think that you will have enough time. Sorry about that."

And with the slightest quiver of her tail, they all jumped at him.

There wasn't much he could do; around four or five cats were all on top of him. Claws tore at him and yanked out his whiskers, and him thrashing underneath them seemed to make things worse.

"Don't even try," The voice of Petalwind was heard from above him. "I always looked up to you, though of you as 'Blizzardstar the Great'. But now, you're just a disgrace. There needs to be more power in this Clan, and there just isn't. It's time for me to take over, not you. Nice way to end the night, huh?" He choked as the cats held him down.

"You're not powerful enough..." He managed to rasp out.

"That's what you may think..." She smiled slyly. "But that's not the full truth. Nice to see you." She twitched her nose and Blizzardstar felt his throat get sliced.

At least I'll be in StarClan.

A/N||

Hey, Lovelies! That was the Prologue! It was short, but I hope you enjoyed! That is the beginning of one great book! I'll update tomorrow or Thursday! (I really need an updating schedule for this...) As always, thank you for reading, voting, commenting, and sharing, and I hope to see you soon!
~Briar

Chapter One

"Did you bring Olivestar her mouse?" The soft voice of Mossykit whispered from next to Starlingkit.

"Of course I did! Everyone knows that you can't confront a leader unless you bring a sacrifice!" Bearkit argued from across her.

Owlkit cut in. "It's not a sacrifice if we didn't catch it! We're not even old enough to confront a leader! Can't we just go back to the nursery and stay with Mothwhisker and Mousestep? Rowanfur wouldn't want us doing this!" His high-pitched voice whined against the otherwise quiet kits.

"Who cares what that mouse-brain thinks; we're here to confront a leader whether we like it or not! If you're not brave enough then you might as well just leave!" Bearkit puffed up and growled.

"Leave him alone, Bearkit! Owlkit can stay or leave; it's his choice! Why are we even here? We don't have anything to talk to Olivestar about!" Starlingkit replied, her sweet tone calming the kits around her.

Bearkit rolled his eyes and turned to Starlingkit. "Listen here, fox-breath. If you can't figure out why we're here, then you shouldn't even be here. Olivestar said she would make us apprentices a long time ago, but you clearly don't care enough about it! One of us is bound to become Duskstar's apprentice, and we all know it's going to be me."

Now it was Starlingkit's turn to roll her eyes. "You have got to be kidding. Duskstar could choose any of us to be his apprentice. For all we know, it might be me." Bearkit laughed and narrowed his eyes.

"That's not how apprentices work, fox-breath. Everybody knows that toms get apprentices that are toms, and she-cats get apprentices that are she-cats. A tom has never had an apprentice that was a she-cat! So, obviously, it's not you, it's me." He spat harshly as Starlingkit took a step back.

"For StarClan's sake, leave her alone! You kits never stop arguing!" Starlingkit looked up to meet the soft brown eyes of

Almondpaw. She smiled slightly and turned back to Bearkit.

"Yeah, Bearkit! Leave me alone!" She squeaked as her white and brown pelt fluffed up.

"Says who? Almondpaw? How long has she even been here, anyways?" His whiskers twitched in anger as he looked back at the brown she-cat.

Starlingkit was starting to lose her impatiece. "Who cares how long she's been here, snake-heart! What matters is that she's older and you have to listen to what she tells you to do!" Mossykit trembled in fear as Starlingkit hissed at the larger kit. Almondpaw stood by, gazing at the young kit in awe. What had happened? Why were they afraid of her?

Before she had the chance to ask, two Guardians emerged from the large stone boulder cave that served as Olivestar's den. Starlingkit recognized them as Flamemask and Milkfeather.

"Olivestar is ready to see you." Flamemask grumbled, her eyes distant.

"I would be careful. She seems awfully cheery to see you kits." Milkfeather's brown pelt shook as she spoke.

Starlingkit dipped her head in respect for the Guardians; they were so powerful. She wished to be one of them one day, tough and brave. It was very obvious that she wasn't going to be one though, because she had plenty of flaws and would barely scrape past becoming a warrior. She knew that.

The small troop of kits scampered into the cave, moss lining the floors and walls, providing a soft but smooth living space. A moss bed was in one corner of the cave, and a small pool of water was in the other, a pile of neatly stacked fresh-kill next to it.

Mossykit and Owlkit strayed to one side, staring at their reflections in the pool of water. Bearkit and Swiftkit padded off to the other end, exploring the space around the moss bed to see what they could find. Starlingkit was left by herself, watching the others play and muse, while all she did was sit down silently and wrap her thin tail around her paws. They would come around and learn that life in a Clan isn't all fun and games. Eventually.

"Very watchful, I see." Starlingkit looked next to her as she heard Olivestar's voice.

"Yes, I don't really have much to do in this den. It's kind of boring, if you don't mind my stating." Olivestar's eyes shimmered, but she didn't smile.

"Well, for one, I'm glad that you didn't get scared when I came out of nowhere. True warrior quality. And, very bluntly, yes, my den is 'boring', but all for the right reasons. If there was stuff to do in my den, I would be distracted from the jobs I am in charge of outside of my den." Starlingkit nodded in understanding.

"We came here to ask about our apprenticeship. I'm sure you already have that figured out though, so we might as well be on our way." She quickly murmered. It was weird talking to one of her leaders. Olivestar was so respected that it got to a point where it was scary.

"Oh, yes. Your apprenticeship." Starlingkit turned back to face the leader. "We have to get that over with. I find assigning apprentices is one of the hardest jobs. Would you agree?" The white she-kit nodded, not sure of what else to do. "Well then, we might as well do that now, shall we?" Olivestar flicked her tail and padded out of the den, leaving Starlingkit to gather up the rest of the kits and lead them to where their leader was standing. Olivestar called Cedarshine over and whispered something to him. He scanned his eyes over the kits next to her and flicked his tail. She nodded and turned back to the gathering Clan.

Getting into a line, Bearkit took the front, waiting for Duskstar to sit down and speak.

"Bearkit," Duskstar began, watching as the last of the Clan settled in around them. "You will be mentored by Tansypool. May you become as brave and tough as the rest of the Clan."

Starlingkit practically laughed as she saw the annoyance in Bearkit's eyes as he didn't get chosen to be the leader's apprentice.

"Mossykit," Olivestar spoke, "You will be mentored by Ivyfrost. May you become a strong warrior of this Clan."

Duskstar and Olivestar traded places once more. "Swiftkit, you have been chosen to be Cedarshine's apprentice." Starlingkit's heart plummeted to the ground as she heard Duskstar's words. Her dreams of training with her littermate by her side just got swept down the river. Now she had to do it alone.

"Starlingkit," The she-kit looked up to see Olivestar patiently waiting by the Blessing Stones. "Come here." Starlingkit slowly padded up to the Blessing Stones. Why was she there? Did she do something wrong?

"Don't be afraid. Kits who are afraid are weak. And we wouldn't want that, now would we?" Starlingkit shook her head and

looked up to her leaders. "Very well then. Starlingkit, you have been chosen to lead the next generation of cats in FallenClan. You have been assigned to be Duskstar's apprentice." Olivestar nodded to Duskstar, who padded over and sat next to Olivestar.

Starlingkit wanted to yowl. She didn't want to be the next leader. She wanted to be a Guardian. There was nothing she could do, but out of the corner of her eye, she saw Bearkit practically exploding with anger. As the two leaders talked, the she-kit escaped from their view and padded over to Bearkit.

"Listen here, fox-breath. When I get my paws on you-" Starlingkit cut him off as fast as possible.

"First, listen to me. I don't want this as you do. In fact, I never wanted it. But I'm not going to confront a leader by myself. And trying to trick them isn't up my ally." Her amber eyes sparkled as she looked at him.

"I'm not going to confront them either. And even though it is up my ally, I won't do it alone. Not when I can get killed if I'm caught." He dared her with his gaze.

"Fine," She started, her tail waving as she spoke to him. "We'll do it together."

A/N||
Hey, Lovelies! So, welcome to the end of Chapter One! I hope you enjoy the book so far! Tell me what you think of the characters and their personalities! As for the updating schedule, I've decided that I will update Lost every other day, and The Rain Will Fall every two days. I've already fallen in love with the characters, and I hope you have too! This book is gonna turn out amazing (I hope)! Please leave your suggestions in a comment below, and as always, thank you for reading voting, commenting, and sharing, and I hope to see you soon!
Love Ya,
~Briar

Chapter Two

"You are now renamed Bearpaw, Mossypaw, Swiftpaw, Starlingpaw, and Owlpaw. You may join your mentors. Hazelpaw and Starlingpaw, Duskstar and I would like to see you." Olivestar looked at Starlingpaw and for a split second, the she-cat was sure she saw her leader wink at her.
"Come on, we don't want to get in trouble for being late." Starlingpaw turned to look at a tortoiseshell she-cat who had caught up to her. She gave a slight smile. "I'm Hazelpaw, by the way. Olivestar's apprentice." Starlingpaw smiled back.
"Starlingpaw. Duskstar's apprentice. But you already knew that..." Her voice trailed off as she looked back in front of her. Hazelpaw laughed. Confused, Starlingpaw looked back up to meet the soft amber eyes of the she-cat. Did she find it...funny? Nobody had ever found Starlingpaw funny. That was...different. Maybe she had found a friend after all.
"So, what exactly are we doing?" Starlingpaw asked after a moment of silence. Hazelpaw thought to herself for a second and looked back at the younger she-cat. Starlingpaw fluffed up her white and brown pelt before laying it down flat again.
"Well, it really depends. Olivestar and Duskstar like to surprise us. Maybe we're going to take a trip to the South Side Waters. Or maybe we're going to help choose the next apprentices and their mentors. It really varies by the mood the leaders are in." Starlingpaw nodded in understanding as they reached Duskstar's branch den.
Hazelpaw stepped in, followed by Starlingpaw, who made sure to stay at the she-cat's heels. Poppywind and Sparkfire stayed behind them, making sure no other cats were following.
Duskstar's den was nothing like Olivestar's. The floor was rough and sharp, rocks poking out in the most unexpected places. It was cold, the wind easily blown in through the thin layer of branches that made up the walls. A simple moss bed lay in the middle of the den, and a small pile of prey lay scattered next to it. The only source of water was water-soaked moss, and puddles pooled around the moss.
"So, welcome to my den," Duskstar padded out from around a

corner that Starlingpaw hadn't noticed before. *I wonder where that came from?* She thought silently. "Most cats rarely get to see this den; it's a bit of a sacred place. This will end up being your den one day, so learn where everything is." The brown tom said. *There's not much to learn,* Starlingpaw thought again. *I know.* Wait. Who was talking? Nobody seemed to hear anything, so Starlingpaw just assumed she was paranoid.
"Now, we wait." Olivestar came out from the same corner Duskstar emerged from.
"Wait for what?" Starlingpaw asked, her fur slowly rising as she questioned a leader.
"For the medicine cats, deputies, and Guardians," Duskstar replied.
No sooner had his words been spoken, two cats padded into his den. One was a white tom with brown flecks on his back and paws, and he had brown eyes like tree bark. *He looks like me,* Starlingpaw said to herself as he seated himself and waited for the rest of the cats.
The second cat was a black cat with blue eyes like the sky. They were incredible. The scent of herbs clung to her pelt, so Starlingpaw assumed that she was one of the medicine cats.
After a short while, the last two cats joined the group, and the Guardians stayed at the entrance to the den. The she-cat, Yewsong, was one of FallenClan's deputies, and a very respected one. Everyone knew about her, and if they didn't, they would find out soon enough. The second medicine cat, Cedarshine, was highly favored among all the cats in the Clan, and always managed to heal a cat, no matter the cost.
"Now that our group is complete," Olivestar spoke, "We can discuss the pairings of this season." Starlingpaw tilted her head in confusion, and was about to lean over and ask Hazelpaw what pairings were, but stopped herself before she was punished.
"I for one think that Ebonylight should be paired this season," The black she-cat said, her eyes flickering back and forth between all of the cats.
"And why should that be, Tallwatcher?" Olivestar gazed at the she-cat with a dark hazel glare.
"Well, she is one of our youngest warriors, and she is very skilled in hunting and fighting. Her kits would be very strong and healthy."
Olivestar nodded as Tallwatcher made her points, and she finally spoke when nobody else did.
"Very well then, Ebonylight will be part of a pairing. But who will

she mate with?" Nobody spoke, so Starlingpaw figured she should step in.
"What about Elmthroat or Leopardstorm?" All eyes turned to the she-cat, and when nobody interrupted her, she figured she should keep speaking. "Well, Elmthroat is an amazing warrior, and he is very swift, too. He and Ebonylight would have good kits. And if that doesn't work out, Leopardstorm would work too. He is very strong and has great fighting skills. His kits would be stronger than their father." Duskstar nodded in approval and spoke.
"Starlingpaw has a point. I think Elmthroat would make a good pairing for Ebonylight." Olivestar and the rest of the cats nodded to show their agreement. "I also think that Emberwillow or Sableleap would make a good pairing with Batwatcher. They are healthy warriors that have good qualities." Cedarshine responded with his thoughts.
"Sableleap is a good warrior. We can't lose her abilities in the Clan at this time. We need to stock up on prey for leafbare. Emberwillow is tough. She would be able to pull through the kitting, and manage to deliver healthy kits, even if she dies." Olivestar stopped him before he could say any more.
"Yes, but Sableleap would deliver better and stronger kits."
"But we can't afford to lose her for that long. The Clan needs her skills to survive." Olivestar sighed.
"Fine. Our pairings for this season are Ebonylight and Elmthroat, and Emberwillow and Batwatcher?" The group nodded. "Very well then, I will announce the pairings at sundown. Pineflight, make sure our borders are marked and don't forget to send out the hunting patrols." The white and brown tom nodded. "You are dismissed."
Starlingpaw exited the den with Hazelpaw at her side.
"That was cool," she said. "Now what?"
Hazelpaw gave a sly smile.
"We could go and eat," She widened her eyes as she spoke. "Or, we could take an adventure."

A/N||
Hey, Lovelies! I really should wait to post this in a few days, but I really love this story and the character s, and the ideas just keep coming! I really do want to hear your ideas on the book; I'm working really hard! This book is just the slightest

bit better than Lost (but you might have your own opinions) because the book has fewer plot holes and makes more sense. Anyways, I hope you enjoy it, and thank you for reading, voting, commenting, and sharing, and I hope to see you soon!
Love Ya,
~Briar

Chapter Three

"So, where exactly are we going?" Starlingpaw asked as the tortoiseshell in front of her weaved through a thick bundle of trees.

"I already told you," She responded. "We're going to the Oval Waters." Starlingpaw saw her eyes glimmer as she turned to look behind her.

"What are the Oval Waters? I mean, you don't need to tell me, it was just a question, but-" Starlingpaw stopped as she realized she was rambling. "I'm sorry, it's just-"

"Don't be. It's fine. As to answer your question, the Oval Waters was the place where leaders used to go and recieve their nine lives. As for that, well, that's over now. But cats claim that if you go there and touch the water, you will be granted with special powers." Hazelpaw finished her story and slowed down to allow Starlingpaw to catch up.

"That doesn't seem accurate. It just doesn't add up. You're saying that we're going there because you want powers?" The she-cat was baffled. Powers just made things so much harder.

"Well, yes. But don't you wanna know what it would be like to read minds, or fly, or be invincible?" Her gaze burned into Starlingpaw, and she-cat didn't know how to answer.

"Actually, no." She replied simply, putting no emotion into the words because she knew that she wouldn't be asked why. And she was right. Hazelpaw didn't dare question her why, but just stayed silent the rest of the way there. And that's how Starlingpaw liked it. Calm and quiet.

The Oval Waters were way different than what Starlingpaw expected. It was a cold stone cave with moss growing at the top that would flutter down every so often and land on her muzzle. Water leaked through holes at the top of the cave and dripped down onto the floor, leaving an echo as they fell. Hazelpaw padded through the damp cave and stopped at a pool in the center of the cave with smaller pools around it.

"So, now what?" Starlingpaw asked as they slowly padded around each of the pools of water.

Hazelpaw shrugged. "I thought you didn't want powers."

"I don't. I just want to know what to do in case I ever do want them." The she-cat gave a small smile as she replied.

"Very well then. You just lay next to one of the pools—any of your choice—and dip your muzzle into it. You should fall asleep right away." Hazelpaw laid next to one of the smaller pools. "Like this." She then dipped her muzzle into it, and before Starlingpaw knew it, she was asleep.

There wasn't much to do, now that Hazelpaw was in eternal sleep and Starlingpaw didn't know for how long she wouldn't be awake. So she did the thing that most cats wouldn't do. She waited.

And waited.

And waited.

And waited.

It seemed like moons had passed when Hazelpaw finally awoke from her slumber. And when she did, there was nothing different about her.

"I guess those 'powers' you were talking about aren't real," Starlingpaw joked as they began the long walk back to the camp. "Unless you do have powers?"

"No, I don't. So, I guess not." She let out a small sigh of disappointment, and for a second, Starlingpaw felt bad for her. "But, I guess it's all for the best, right? At least now I know that the myth is a lie." Starlingpaw's feelings were lifted when Hazelpaw let out a laugh and smile, but both were from sadness.

Leaves crunched underneath their paws as the pair walked into camp. Cats talking came from all directions, but Starlingpaw watched as Cinderpaw padded up to her and Hazelpaw, a piece of fresh-kill held in his mouth.

He dropped what Starlingpaw now realized was a robin onto the ground before them.

"Um, I brought you guys a robin," He said, shifting on his paws uncomfortably. Starlingpaw thanked him with a sweet smile.

"Aw, how sweet of you! Thank you, but I think you deserve it. You look extremely tired." The white and brown she-cat spoke as she studied how his whiskers and tail drooped, and how his shoulders sagged as he walked.

The gray tom shook out his pelt and stood up more confidently. "No, I insist. This is for you. I can get my own fresh-kill later, when the rest of the Clan has eaten. Besides, I'm pretty sure you guys

haven't eaten at all." He let out a short laugh, but Starlingpaw could tell that he was still exhausted.
"Well then, we might as well eat this. Thank you once again...um, I seemed to have forgotten your name..." Starlingpaw hesitated as she scrambled in her brain to try and remind herself of the tom's name.
"I don't think I ever gave it to you," He chuckled as he looked at her. "My name is Cinderpaw." He smiled at her, his warm gaze welcoming.
"Starlingpaw. Thank you once again Cinderpaw. It was very kind of you." She smiled back at him, their eyes meeting and shining.
"No problem. Any-" His words were cut off my Hazelpaw, who had been watching the entire conversation.
"Just get a den already, will ya? This lovebird stuff is too much for me to handle." Her eyes were laughing, but her tone was serious.
Cinderpaw looked away and fumbled for words, but eventually settled on not saying anything and just padding away silently.
Starlingpaw was left with a tingle of sweetness, but decided to put the matter behind her. She had more important things to focus on than love.
"Well, we should probably eat this and get back to work," she said, her words a quick blur.
"Yeah, we should." Hazelpaw looked at the she-cat with a look of hilarious torment, but Starlingpaw just shook it off. There was no room in her life for love.

A/N||
Hey, Lovelies! Here is another chapter of the famous new book! Ugh, I REALLY HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS BOOK! I've been working so hard, so please leave your suggestions! Tell me what you think of Starlingpaw's love interest, Cinderpaw! Do you think he's a good character? As always, thank you for reading, voting, commenting, and sharing, and I hope to see you soon!
Love Ya,
~Briar✧

Chapter Four

A chill ran down Starlingpaw's spine as water ran down her fur. Duskstar had confined her to camp so she could 'learn how the other cats felt'. It was all just a piece of fox-dung to her, but there wasn't much she could do about it.
"Starlingpaw," A voice came from the outside of the nursery. "Do you want to come and fetch more moss with me? I need to refill the apprentice's den."
The voice of Hazelpaw was distinct and Starlingpaw dropped the water-soaked moss with the rest in the corner. She padded out to see the tortoiseshell figure of her friend waiting for her.

"I'm guessing that I'm not the only one going?" She smiled slyly.

"Of course you're not," Hazelpaw replied sweetly. "Almondpaw, Sparrowpaw, and Cinderpaw are coming with us."

Starlingpaw froze when she heard Cinderpaw's name. Trying to not give anything away, she put a smile on her face and sat next to Hazelpaw.

Sparrowpaw and Cinderpaw padded out of the apprentice's den together, with Almondpaw following behind, playfully nipping at Sparrowpaw's tail.

"Almondpaw! Quit it before someone sees us!" Starlingpaw heard Sparrowpaw scold the she-cat from afar.

"As if your 'secret love' isn't already known about!" Cinderpaw joked from beside them.

"We're not in love! We're just friends!" Almondpaw retorted from behind him, her fur fluffing up.
"Yeah right-" Cinderpaw started to reply before Hazelpaw cut him off.
"Okay! That's enough, guys! We have to go and fetch moss." She flicked her tail and padded out of camp, leading the other four cats down a muddy path in the forest.
After about ten moons of walking—or at least it felt like it—Starlingpaw stopped the group and spoke.
"Guys, I think we're just going in circles." Hazelpaw stopped walking and turned back.

"I think you're right," She said, her voice shaking the slightest bit. "We have to find a way out of here."
Starlingpaw shook her head. "It shouldn't be that hard to find our way back. We just go in the direction that we came from." She saw Cinderpaw snort and look at her.
"But what if we can't find our way back?" His sweet blue eyes met with her boring amber ones, and the power they contained made her look away.
"Then we have to find help." She said her words simply, having no intention of trying to draw attention to herself, but only trying to stop Cinderpaw from speaking. She succeeded.
And as the group continued walking, they took a different path and ended up in completely unknown territory.
"Um, guys," Almondpaw spoke from next to Sparrowpaw. "I don't know where we are." Starlingpaw rolled her eyes. Nobody knew where they were. And it was just a matter of time before they collided with a group of unknown cats.
"Oh my StarClan!" Hazelpaw cried out as she bumped into a brown and white she-cat.
Starlingpaw snarled. "Language!" She saw Hazelpaw turn back and give her a look of apology.
The brown and white she-cat looked at them. Starlingpaw didn't focus on her, though. She was watching a gray and white she-cat behind her. The she-cat's eyes kept flickering over to Cinderpaw, who was watching Starlingpaw.
"Um, who are you?" The brown and white cat asked. Her blue-green eyes looked over each and every one of the cats.
"Who are you?" Hazelpaw asked back.
"We asked you first," A tan cat stepped in front of the others. "So answer us."
"My name is Starlingpaw," Starlingpaw shakily padded to the front of her group. "And I pardon you for Hazelpaw's rudeness. We come in peace, and in search of help." Her eyes met with the blue-green eyes of the other she-cat.
"You have been forgiven. My name is Tilleypaw, and we come from MysteryClan. We would be willing to help you with what you need." She shot Starlingpaw a smile.
"Good," Hazelpaw said rudely, flicking her ears in disgust.
Starlingpaw watched as they all looked at each other, their heads nodding, but no words being spoken.

"Hazelpaw," Starlingpaw glared at her friend. "That is no way to treat cats we don't even know." She whispered to her as the cats watched them. "Listen," She turned back to the group. "You shouldn't trust us unless you have a reason to. So, let us introduce ourselves." She watched as everyone nodded. "As you already know, I'm Starlingpaw, and that's Hazelpaw. We come from FallenClan." She smiled softly, trying not to show her anger with the tortoiseshell.
"I'm Cinderpaw," The gray tom said, a shy smile plastered on his face as Starlingpaw saw him lock eyes with the gray and white she-cat. A small bubble of jealousy grew inside of her.
"Hold up," Another cat from the group across them spoke. "My name is Cinderpaw too." Both cats burst out laughing, and soon enough, the rest of the group joined in as well.
"That's cool," Sparrowpaw spoke from beside Almondpaw. "My name is Sparrowpaw, and this little one is Almondpaw." He nudged the smaller brown cat next to him, who playfully nipped his ear.
"I'm not little!" She argued from next to him, but he just playfully shoved her away.
"Well, we know you, so it's time for you to meet us." Tilleypaw spoke from her group, and looked at the tan cat next to her, and they both nodded.
"I'm Ackleypaw, it's a pleasure to meet you." he smiled at the group, but Starlingpaw couldn't tell whether it was forced or not.
"Um, my name is Wolfpaw." The gray and white cat spoke, bringing Starlingpaw and Cinderpaw's attention towards her.
"My name is Briarpaw," A she-cat with black spots on her head held her head up high when she spoke. Starlingpaw decided that she would try to get to know her better.
"I'm Honeypaw," Another she-cat spoke from the group. "And I hope I can get closer with some of you. You seem like good cats." Starlingpaw watched her make eye contact with Sparrowpaw, who then smiled at her from next to Almondpaw.
"Brackenpaw," An orange cat spoke loudly from the middle of the apprentices.
"Cedarpaw,"
"And Lunarpaw."
"Now, what did you need help with?"